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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 34th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. MONGBE (Benin)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 91: DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION (continued)

(a) TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT (continued)

Draft resolution on strengthening international organizations in the area of multilateral trade (A/C.2/48/L.13)

1. Mr. JARAMILLO (Colombia), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that he hoped that it would be supported by all delegations.

Draft resolution on international trade and development (A/C.2/48/L.15)

2. Mr. JARAMILLO (Colombia), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, expressed the hope that it would receive the support of all delegations.

(h) SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT (continued)

Draft resolution on science and technology for development (A/C.2/48/L.16)

3. Mr. JARAMILLO (Colombia), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that he hoped that it would be adopted by consensus.

AGENDA ITEM 98: INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR NATURAL DISASTER REDUCTION (continued) (A/48/219-E/1993/97 and Add.1 and A/48/552; A/C.2/48/4 and A/C.2/48/6)

AGENDA ITEM 100: SPECIAL PROGRAMMES OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE (continued) (A/48/272-S/26108, A/48/308-S/26295, A/48/319, A/48/320, A/48/392 and Corr.1, A/48/396-S/26440, A/48/405, A/48/434, A/48/453, A/48/504, A/48/552 and A/48/564; A/C.2/48/6)

AGENDA ITEM 101: INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE ECONOMIC REHABILITATION OF ANGOLA (continued) (A/48/473 and A/48/564)

AGENDA ITEM 102: ASSISTANCE FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF EL SALVADOR (continued) (A/48/310)

AGENDA ITEM 103: INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE TO ALLEVIATE THE CONSEQUENCES OF WAR IN CROATIA AND TO FACILITATE ITS RECOVERY (continued) (A/48/215, A/48/401, A/48/490-S/26565 and A/48/534)

AGENDA ITEM 105: STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND COORDINATION OF EFFORTS TO STUDY, MITIGATE AND MINIMIZE THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE CHERNOBYL DISASTER (continued) (A/48/218, A/48/353-S/26372 and A/48/406)

AGENDA ITEM 169: ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO STATES AFFECTED BY THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS IMPOSING SANCTIONS AGAINST THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA (SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO) (continued) (A/48/239 and A/48/573-S/26705)

AGENDA ITEM 171: EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FOR THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC REHABILITATION OF RWANDA (continued) (A/48/241)

4. Mr. MANCZYK (Poland) said that his delegation welcomed the growing involvement of the United Nations system in activities to mitigate and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster. The international community and the United Nations system must undertake an objective and comprehensive analysis of the whole range of consequences of the accident.

5. In view of the magnitude of the task and the limited resources available, it was essential to create a sound and realistic structure for cooperation that could serve as the basis for broader contacts in future. The structure should establish an appropriate division of labour between the national authorities of the countries concerned, regional organizations and specialized agencies, taking into account the comparative advantage of each and the need to avoid duplication of resources.

6. The new project-oriented approach, agreed recently with Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine, would require a more effective division of labour not only between the United Nations and the three States, but also among the United Nations system and the European Community, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), the World Bank and other bilateral and multilateral donors. In particular, financial institutions should be more supportive of the national efforts of the affected countries.

7. Special attention should be paid to the activities of the World Health Organization (WHO) International Programme on the Health Effects of the Chernobyl Accident. In spite of financial constraints, which limited its activities to five projects, the Programme was widely recognized as the most effective international activity carried out under United Nations auspices for the mitigation of the hazardous health consequences of the accident. It would be unforgivable if, due to the exhaustion of extrabudgetary resources, the Programme were to be abruptly discontinued.

8. Poland had undertaken a number of bilateral programmes of assistance for children from the Chernobyl region. In 1993, Caritas Poland, a charity organization of the Polish Church, had organized summer holidays for 5,000 children from Belarus, Ukraine and Lithuania. In 1991 and 1992, about 18,000 children had been invited to Poland. Similar programmes, albeit on a smaller scale, had been organized by the Polish Red Cross.

9. Mr. HORIGUCHI (Japan) said that Japan had actively supported the programmes undertaken in Somalia by various international organizations. In 1993, it had provided $4.6 million for the relief operations carried out by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the United Nations Volunteers (UNV), and had pledged approximately $10 million in rice and wheat through the World Food Programme (WFP) for refugees and displaced persons in Somalia and neighbouring countries. The United Nations should convene the Fourth Coordination Meeting for Humanitarian Assistance for Somalia in Addis Ababa later in the year to consider means of facilitating the transition from relief to rehabilitation to development.

(Mr. Horiguchi, Japan)

10. Japan welcomed the recent developments in Liberia, which had culminated in a cease-fire that had taken effect on 1 August 1993. While conditions in that country had begun to improve, Japan was concerned about the reports of human rights abuses against unarmed civilians and the news that a relief group had recently halted shipments to regions where fighting was said to be taking place. The United Nations should continue to pressure all sides to resume talks and abide by the agreement reached in Geneva in July 1993. In order to alleviate the suffering of the Liberian people, Japan had from the outset contributed to relief efforts through the relevant international organizations, such as WFP and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). In December 1992, it had contributed $1.35 million to the UNHCR assistance programme for refugees in Liberia.

11. Japan had been concerned over the resumption of hostilities in Angola and hoped that the warring factions would make further efforts to achieve national reconciliation and cooperate with the international community, so that the necessary humanitarian assistance could be provided throughout Angola as soon as possible. Japan had made several contributions to programmes to alleviate the suffering of the Angolan people. In September 1992, it had contributed $2 million for the repatriation of Angolan refugees through UNHCR and, in 1993 it had provided assistance for the relief of displaced persons through ICRC.

12. His delegation appreciated the efforts of the United Nations and the relevant international and non-governmental organizations to strengthen humanitarian and economic assistance to Afghanistan, and regretted that such programmes must be run from Islamabad because of the continued instability in Kabul. Since 1979, the Japanese Government had strongly supported the efforts of the United Nations and the Government of Pakistan to alleviate the suffering of Afghans who had fled their homes. Through UNHCR, Japan had provided $1.3 million to facilitate the voluntary repatriation of Afghans returning home from Pakistan, and $2.3 million to a programme to assist Afghans returning from Iran. Japan had also contributed to a mine-clearance programme.

13. Japan welcomed the recent progress made towards national reconciliation in El Salvador and had responded to those efforts by expanding economic and technical cooperation to more than $200 million since the signing of the Chapultepec Agreement in January 1992. Japan would continue working with the international community to promote reconstruction and development and raise the standard of living of the Salvadorian people.

14. Japan had actively assisted the countries of Central America in their efforts to promote democracy and economic development. Japanese bilateral official development assistance (ODA) to the region had increased from $52 million in 1987 to $240 million in 1992. Japan would continue to provide the greatest possible assistance to the countries of Central America engaged in such efforts. In Tokyo, in March 1993, Japan had hosted a special session of the Partnership for Democracy and Development in Central America, a global forum for discussion of assistance to the region.

15. Japan attached great importance to the results of the ongoing International Programme on the Health Effects of the Chernobyl Accident, which had been supported by a $20 million-contribution in mid-1991 from the Japanese

(Mr. Horiguchi, Japan)

Government. In October 1993, the Japanese Government had sent seven experts to Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine to study current conditions and exchange opinions on promoting bilateral cooperation. At the end of 1993, Japan would invite 24 experts from those three countries to conduct technical studies in radiotherapeutics.

16. In order to avoid a repetition of the Chernobyl disaster, much work must be done to ensure the safety of nuclear power plants. The Japanese Government appealed to countries with operational nuclear power plants to take responsibility for their safety, if necessary with the assistance of the international community. In 1993, the Japanese Government had committed $32 million in bilateral assistance and some $6 million in multilateral assistance to improve nuclear safety in the former Soviet Union and countries of Central and Eastern Europe.

17. In October 1993, the Russian Government had confirmed that it had dumped liquid radioactive waste into the Sea of Japan, and admitted that it had been doing so for decades. After Japan had expressed strong concern about that action, Russia had decided to suspend further dumping for the time being. The Japanese Government sincerely hoped that the Russian Federation would abandon its practice of ocean dumping and dispose of its radioactive wastes in an appropriate manner.

18. His delegation attached special importance to the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction. In its resolution 46/149, the General Assembly had endorsed the convening of a World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction in Yokohama City from 23 to 27 May 1994. The World Conference would give the international community an opportunity to consider ways of mitigating the threat posed by natural disasters.

19. Mr. FERRARIN (Italy) said that his delegation attached great important to the Special Plan of Economic Cooperation for Central America. It had created and was helping to implement the Programme for Displaced Persons, Refugees and Returnees in Central America (PRODERE), a UNDP programme funded entirely by the Italian Government with a $115 million grant. PRODERE, which stressed community participation, sustainable activities and human resource development, had demonstrated the effectiveness of a relief-development linkage.

20. Despite severe budgetary restraints, his Government had made a special effort to assist a number of countries seeking to achieve peace, stability and development. In that context, it relied very much on its close cooperation with the United Nations system. Italy had allocated more than $47 million to emergency activities in Angola through various channels, and accorded priority to Eritrea, where it had committed more than $3.2 million to UNICEF for relief activities on behalf of orphans and the children of refugees on the Sudanese borders and $2.1 million to WHO for the rehabilitation of health infrastructure.

21. Italy funded a broad programme of assistance to Mozambique, totalling $101.2 million, approximately $10 million of which had been earmarked for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of rural infrastructure by the United Nations Office for Humanitarian Assistance Coordination (UNOHAC) in Maputo. Additional activities of that nature were being considered for 1994 and early 1995. In

(Mr. Ferrarin, Italy)

addition to an extensive bilateral programme and the humanitarian activities carried out by the Italian military contingent of the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II), mainly in health care and the distribution of food aid, his Government had contributed $22.5 million to various United Nations agencies, in particular the World Food Programme (WFP) and UNICEF. Approximately $6.8 million was allocated to immunization activities, water and sanitation projects, and the rehabilitation of health infrastructure. In Mogadishu, the Italian contribution had enabled UNICEF to carry out a water chlorination campaign in order to reduce the spread of cholera. Italy had also contributed $600,000 to UNICEF to help the population of south Lebanon and west Bekaa and $9.4 million for humanitarian activities in Croatia in 1993, mainly through WFP, UNICEF and UNHCR.

22. His delegation welcomed the recent establishment of the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination stand-by team (UNDAC) and the Central Register of Disaster Management Capacities and emergency stockpiles. The warehouse of the United Nations Department of Humanitarian Affairs in Pisa had very successfully provided emergency relief supplies, including tents, blankets, generators, tool kits, and water purifying kits. Funded largely by the Italian Government, it was primarily intended to assist the developing countries. In its seven years of existence, more than 200 operations had been flown from the warehouse to 52 countries. In the first six months of 1993, emergency relief supplies had been delivered to Tanzania, Iran, Armenia, Somalia, Georgia, Eritrea and Tajikistan. In view of its success, the Pisa warehouse should retain its central role in the United Nations emergency relief system. Its reserves were available for use by other countries and organizations as well.

23. His delegation had always supported the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction and had made financial contributions to the trust fund. Italy had also provided experts and scientists and elaborated projects that used advanced technologies to assess and monitor risks in order to ensure a speedier early-warning system and better resource management in emergencies. A number of Italian observatories and research institutes had concluded agreements with the United Nations Department of Humanitarian Affairs and the secretariat for the Decade. The Italian newsletter on the Decade, published in four languages, had become a key instrument for world-wide communication among disaster reduction workers.

24. Since 1968, natural disaster had cost Italy approximately $90 million. Accordingly, the Italian Parliament had adopted a new civil protection law, which included innovative guidelines for public administration activities and the promotion of disaster prevention and preparedness among the citizens.

25. Mr. KENIK (Belarus) said that the profound, social and political changes that were taking place in Belarus had complicated the implementation of its national programme to minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster. A considerable part - approximately 18 per cent - of the annual budget continued to be allocated to the solution of urgent health, ecological and economic problems of the affected regions. The difficulties involved in the transition from a centralized to a market economy, inflation, growing unemployment and an acute shortage of medicine and medical equipment severely limited the ability of Belarus to deal with the problem on its own, and it therefore appreciated the

(Mr. Kenik, Belarus)

humanitarian initiatives of a number of countries and non-governmental organizations.

26. The United Nations and the agencies and organizations of the United Nations system and the Governments and non-governmental organizations of a number of countries had made significant contributions in such areas as humanitarian assistance, the implementation of medium-term technical projects and long-term research programmes, and medical assistance and ecological rehabilitation programmes. However, the time had come to undertake more effective action, which the General Assembly would periodically evaluate, in priority areas and in keeping with agreed time-frames.

27. Belarus greatly appreciated the new joint initiative of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to improve the systems of radiation protection and nuclear safety in the newly independent States of the former Soviet Union. His delegation also welcomed the readiness of WHO to broaden the framework of the International Programme on the Health Effects of the Chernobyl Accident through the creation of a special project for persons who had taken part in efforts to deal with the consequences of the accident in 1986. Those and many other initiatives, together with regional efforts carried out by the Commission of the European Communities and the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), as well as a number of bilateral projects, provided a good basis for the continuation of international cooperation at the global, regional and bilateral levels.

28. The meeting of the Inter-Agency Task Force for Chernobyl at Geneva in April 1993 and the quadripartite intergovernmental meeting in Minsk in May 1993 with the participation of the Ministers of the three affected States and the United Nations Coordinator of International Cooperation on Chernobyl should continue to be open to all interested Governments, intergovernmental and, perhaps, non-governmental organizations. It was also necessary to ensure greater stability of the coordinating mechanism established within the United Nations system.

29. Over the past three years, there had been four United Nations Coordinators of International Cooperation on Chernobyl and the personnel of the virtually symbolic "Chernobyl secretariat", which consisted of two people, had been replaced three times. His delegation hoped that, in carrying out its reforms, the United Nations would maintain the "Chernobyl" elements in its programme activities and would preserve the existing coordinating mechanisms (United Nations Coordinator at the level of Under-Secretary-General, the Inter-Agency Task Force, one Professional and one General Service post in the Department for Humanitarian Affairs). His delegation also hoped that the integrated United Nations/UNDP office in Minsk would contribute to the effective coordination of specific projects and programmes.

30. At the current session of the General Assembly, it was necessary to find a practical formula for implementing the principle of comparative advantage of the United Nations and other international mechanisms. In that regard, the coordination and effectiveness of multilateral efforts involving the United Nations, UNDP, WHO, IAEA and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and regional efforts involving ECE and the

(Mr. Kenik, Belarus)

Commission of the European Communities, could be greatly enhanced. Inter-sectoral and sectoral cooperation in the solution of general and specific problems would be more effective if cooperation between the United Nations and the Commission of the European Communities was formalized in a bilateral agreement on the basis of a non-traditional partnership, which could perhaps include cooperation between the United Nations and the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE).

31. The time had come to biennialize the discussion of the question of Chernobyl. However, his delegation could not support the idea of regionalizing the Chernobyl problem. Chernobyl was a problem for the entire world. While his delegation greatly appreciated the work of ECE in the solution of specific problems relating to the Chernobyl disaster, as well as its role in organizing the United Nations fact-finding mission in 1990 and in the preparation of the report that the Secretary-General had submitted to the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly, ECE did not ha.e a broad, long-term mandate for multi-sectoral, system-wide, inter-agency coordination. Moreover, it was difficult to imagine how a regional commission could coordinate the activities of global, independent specialized agencies and programmes in areas that were outside its competence. Nevertheless, his delegation was prepared to consider and discuss any constructive ideas that would strengthen the effectiveness of international cooperation and enhance coordination in the study and mitigation of the effects of the Chernobyl disaster.

32. Mr. ARELLANO (Mexico) said that continued international support was needed to deal with the urgent economic situation in Central America. Mexico, which had historical and cultural ties to its neighbours in Central America, considered cooperation with that region a priority. Based on respect for sovereignty and an awareness that each country had different priorities, Mexico's cooperation programme with Central America supported initiatives undertaken by Governments themselves. In that spirit the Mexican Commission for Cooperation with Central America had been created in 1990 in order to promote, coordinate and evaluate cooperation programmes. Technical cooperation activities had been carried out in a wide variety of sectors and, by the end of 1992, nearly 1,000 technical cooperation activities had been carried out under the Tuxtla Gutiérrez agreement. Global cooperation activities increased by 26.2 per cent in the first 10 months of 1993. Economic, scientific, educational and cultural cooperation had also increased.

33. Under an agreement with the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI), signed in early 1993, Mexico had pledged $100 million for pre-investment studies, development projects and technical assistance. Through Banco Nacional de Comercio Exterior, his Government had extended 20 lines of credit to commercial banks and the electrical power sector in Central America. A framework agreement for trade liberalization with the Central American countries had been signed in 1992. In August 1993, for the third consecutive year, Mexico and Venezuela had reaffirmed their support for Central America under the San José agreement.

34. Referring to the report of the Secretary-General on the Special Plan of Economic Cooperation for Central America (A/48/405), he expressed satisfaction at the activities carried out by the United Nations system, particularly UNDP as

the lead agency for the Special Plan. His delegation agreed with the report's assertion that peace-building and the consolidation of democratic institutions in Central America must be continued. Priority attention must be focused on reducing poverty and the disparities affecting the most vulnerable groups, and on the reintegration into society of populations uprooted by conflict and the external debt.

35. Mr. CASTANEDA (El Salvador), speaking on behalf of the Central American countries, noted that the peace process in Central America, launched in 1987 with the signing of Esquipulas II had been given added impetus by the establishment of the United Nations Observer Group in Central America (ONUCA), the implementation of the Concerted Plan of Action in favour of Central American Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons adopted by the International Conference on Central American Refugees (CIREFCA), and the Special Plan of Economic Cooperation for Central America. Considerable progress had been achieved, particularly under the Special Plan, in strengthening democratic institutional development and modernizing the State, developing telecommunications infrastructure, in the fields of agriculture, environmental preservation, and in the enhancement of political freedom and respect for human rights. Much remained to be done, however, in the areas of peace-building and the consolidation of democratic institutions. The Special Plan must launch new initiatives in order to avert a fresh and, perhaps, more profound crisis. Central America was at a crucial juncture, and yet the financial and material resources to complete its priority programmes were limited. Those programmes included, inter alia, the reintegration into society of uprooted populations; balanced, integral economic and social development based on the concept of human development; the reduction of extreme poverty and of disparities affecting the most vulnerable groups; and the mitigation of the adverse effects of structural adjustment.

36. In that context, the commitments undertaken at Presidential Summits must be reaffirmed, particularly the Guatemala Summit, held in October, which established a framework of priorities for peace-building with human development. That called for a new strategy based on an integral, sustained concept embracing poverty reduction, respect for human rights, environmental protection and the continued modernization of productive capacity for the benefit of all sectors of society.

37. Outstanding among the commitments undertaken by Central American Presidents was the Central American Integration System (SICA), whose main objective was to ensure peace, freedom, democracy and development in Central America. The implementation of the Special Plan had also helped to build an intraregional and international consensus on the Central American question and had facilitated the coordination of external assistance to complement national efforts. However, numerous projects initiated under the Special Plan remained unfinished - only 15 of 71 projects had been completed. Therefore, the cooperation and assistance of the international community were vital. In that context, his delegation was pleased to note that the experience of PRODERE and other initiatives under the emergency programme, particularly within the framework of CIREFCA, was being applied to post-conflict peace-building in other regions. Even though armed conflict in Central American had virtually ended, its underlying causes had yet to be eliminated; recent events in certain countries of the subregion had

(Mr. Casteneda, El Salvador)

highlighted just how fragile the pacification process was. In conclusion, the Central American countries supported the statement delivered by Mr. Zumbado, the UNDP Assistant Administrator and Regional Director, Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean.

38. Mr. BERGUIDO (Panama) said that Panama was implementing public awareness-building programmes on natural disaster reduction even within schools. Disaster prevention activities in each of the country's 67 municipalities were coordinated through the National Civil Protection System, which provided maps to pinpoint hazards, risks, vulnerability and resources. Specific natural disaster measures for each geographical area were disseminated on radio and television and in the press. Together with the Panama Canal Commission and other private and governmental institutions, the National Civil Protection System carried out flood control exercises in the Panama Canal areas. The National Civil Protection System also planned to assess the seismic vulnerability of hospitals and schools, identify buildings which could serve as shelters in the event of natural disasters and establish a national seismological network in conjunction with the geosciences institute of the University of Panama.

39. Despite all those efforts, the country was still at a very primitive stage of disaster prevention and reduction compared to many other countries. It would therefore appreciate assistance and technical advice.

40. His delegation welcomed the measures taken by the secretariat for the Decade and the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator to highlight the importance of preparedness and preventive measures. It supported the convening of the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction in 1994 and stressed the importance of the transfer of technology for disaster preparedness and prevention to developing countries.

41. Mrs. MAIKARFI (Niger) noted that natural disasters in developing countries took a greater toll in terms of lives and the aggravation of underdevelopment and poverty. Her delegation therefore welcomed the international community's recognition of the relationship that existed in many countries between major natural disasters and economic development. The international community must seek to enhance the capacities of each country, for disaster prevention and control through the provision of financing and assistance in the scientific and technical fields. Developed countries must share their technical and scientific knowledge with the developing countries and provide them with the necessary resources to set up early-warning and surveillance systems. The developing countries should also provide assistance in the reconstruction phase.

42. Her delegation welcomed the convening of the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction in 1994 and had taken note of the 12-point Plan of Action towards the Conference. The Niger, a land-locked, Sahelian country with a permanent drought problem, attached great importance to the question of natural disasters and their impact on populations and to measures to counter environmental degradation. In that context, the Niger had taken environmental protection measures and launched an ongoing, large-scale campaign to build awareness among the population.

(Mrs. Maikarfi, Niger)

43. In recent months, the Niger and other countries of the Sahel and Maghreb subregions had also had to deal with a massive invasion of locusts. According to reports by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the locust situation was particularly disturbing and was liable to spread to neighbouring countries. The authorities of those countries had met to elaborate a common locust control strategy with the cooperation of FAO but they lacked sufficient means to implement it. She appealed to the international community for assistance, in particular for the developing countries, which were most in need of aircraft, certain chemicals and specialized technical personnel.

44. Mr. MUTHANA (Republic of Yemen) said that the challenges currently facing Yemen were greater than at any time in the past due to the enormous development tasks imposed by unification. Unification had meant multi-party democracy, greater individual freedom, respect for individual and group rights, economic liberalization, the opening up of the private sector, the promotion of a population strategy, monetary reform and the overcoming of budgetary and balance-of-payments problems. Yemen's good intentions could be seen in the fact that direct, free parliamentary elections had been held. Both of the former halves of Yemen had for many years relied heavily on the aid of the international community; that aid would undoubtedly be needed for some years to come.

45. However, despite the numerous resolutions and decisions adopted by both the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council urging donor States and organizations to provide assistance to Yemen and to help in establishing a comprehensive programme to assess Yemen's needs arising from unification, the support provided to his country remained modest. He therefore called for more effective implementation of the resolutions.

46. His country intended, together with the United Nations Development Programme, to hold a second series of round table discussions and hoped that donor States, international organizations and other providers of capital would offer concrete support. All who had taken part in the first round had manifested their approval of his Government's economic and social policy.

47. His country was pleased at the response by many companies to its declaring Aden a free market open equally to all investors, both foreign and domestic, and would welcome further investment proposals.

48. His delegation would shortly be proposing a draft resolution calling for full implementation of the resolutions on assistance to Yemen and the presentation of a report thereon to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session. He hoped that it would be adopted by consensus.

49. Mr. BIZIMANA (Rwanda), speaking to the question of emergency assistance for the socio-economic rehabilitation of Rwanda, recalled his delegation's statement on the subject to the General Assembly on 5 October 1993. The three-year war had ravaged Rwanda's social, economic and administrative infrastructures, exacerbating the economic decline initiated by the plunge in the price of coffee, his country's major export, and its structural adjustment programme was now threatened, despite the fact that the Government had established the broad outlines of a short- and medium-term post-war economic policy.

(Mr. Bizimana, Rwanda)

50. The signing of the Arusha Peace Agreement on 4 August 1993 had opened the way to a new era of peace and national reconciliation that would make it possible for the Rwandese people to work for the reconstruction and development of their homeland and to strengthen the process of democratization already under way. The assistance of the international community was urgently needed to achieve those goals, as well as to assist with the resettlement of over 900,000 displaced persons, the repatriation of refugees, the reintegration of demobilized military personnel into society and the rebuilding of the country's infrastructures. He expressed his Government's appreciation to Member States, United Nations bodies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations for the valuable assistance provided thus far and, in particular, to the Department of Humanitarian Affairs for having launched the consolidated appeal for international assistance for those displaced by the war. His delegation looked forward to further international support following the Round-table Meeting on humanitarian assistance to be held in early 1994.

51. He noted with satisfaction that a comprehensive programme catering to the needs of demobilized soldiers was being studied using previous United Nations peace-keeping experience in other regions. His delegation also welcomed the very recent decision by the Department of Humanitarian Affairs to allocate a substantial sum to the UNHCR for assistance to refugees who had fled from Burundi - 400,000 of whom were in Rwanda - since that country's military putsch of 21 October 1993. The United Nations should send an international force to Burundi to help restore peace and security and the rule of law.

52. In conclusion, he said that his delegation appreciated the support already shown for its draft resolution on assistance to his country and that it looked forward to receiving support from additional countries.

53. Mr. BULL (Liberia) welcomed the report of the Secretary-General on assistance for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Liberia (A/48/392) and expressed his delegation's gratitude to the Department of Humanitarian Affairs for the excellent manner in which it had continued to mobilize the international community to provide humanitarian and other assistance to his war-torn country. He also wished to convey the appreciation of the Government and people of Liberia to all donors and governmental and non-governmental organizations for their assistance and to the peace-keeping forces (ECOMOG) of the Economic Community of African States (ECOWAS) for their role in effectively countering the unprovoked attack on Monrovia on 15 October 1992. The positive role which the United Nations continued to play in Liberia also merited commendation. The growing cooperation between ECOWAS and the United Nations demonstrated that with the requisite political will, the United Nations and regional or subregional organizations could complement each other's efforts with regard to conflict resolution, as envisaged under Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter.

54. After summarizing the steps which had led to the adoption of the peace agreement at Cotonou, Benin, on 25 July 1993, he paid a tribute to the efforts of all concerned. Since the signing of the agreement, a five-member Transitional Council of State had been established; it would be installed once the disarmament process had begun. The legislative assembly and the judiciary had been reorganized in order to properly represent all political subdivisions in the country. Efforts were under way to deploy additional troops from eastern

(Mr. Bull, Liberia)

and southern Africa to augment the ECOMOG forces and thus serve as a confidence-building measure to ensure full compliance with the agreement. His delegation appealed to the international community to contribute to the trust fund established by the Secretary-General to defray the costs entailed in financing the peace process. Citing paragraphs 76 and 77 of the report, he underscored the importance of continued humanitarian assistance.

55. He welcomed the announcement by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs that as the United Nations continued its humanitarian efforts in Liberia it would increasingly combine emergency assistance with aid for rehabilitation and reconstruction. His delegation was also pleased to note that the United Nations planned to convene a round-table conference of donors on Liberia. In conclusion, he expressed the hope that the draft resolution which his delegation would introduce on the item would be adopted unanimously.

56. Mr. WANG Xinggen (China), speaking to the item on the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, welcomed the significant progress that had been made since the launching of the Decade. National committees or focal points for the Decade had been established in 104 countries and, according to incomplete statistics, more than 100 projects for disaster reduction and mitigation had been implemented at the national level. Many regional and international conferences had been held on the subject.

57. His country would participate actively in the preparatory work for the forthcoming World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction in order to help ensure that it achieved positive results. While his delegation agreed with the Secretary-General that the main actions to reduce vulnerability to natural disasters must be initiated and pursued at the country level, the developing countries urgently required technical and financial assistance in those areas, and it hoped that the United Nations would promote the exchange of information on disaster reduction and prevention and the use of new technology.

58. Turning to the item on special programmes of economic assistance, he said that his delegation supported the international community in providing assistance to Afghanistan, Mozambique, Somalia, the Sudan, Croatia and other countries and regions affected by disasters. External assistance was essential if they were to continue to make progress in overcoming the effects of disasters. His own country, which was vulnerable to disasters, would continue to provide assistance to the best of its ability through bilateral channels. Such aid always should be provided in a humanitarian spirit, without any political motivations, and in a manner ensuring respect for the sovereignty and wishes of the recipient countries.

59. Mr. BANGALI (Sierra Leone) said that his delegation commended the United Nations for its work in providing economic and humanitarian assistance to the countries in question and was pleased to note that there had been encouraging improvements in those countries; nevertheless, it cautioned that such assistance would prove to no avail if new conflicts continued to erupt while efforts were under way to resolve the old ones. It therefore appealed to the Governments or

(Mr. Bangali, Sierra Leone)

caretaker Governments in the countries concerned to consider the broader implications of peace rather than short-term political gains.

60. His delegation was pleased to note that the conflict in Liberia was gradually being resolved and appealed to the parties concerned to maintain the cease-fire now in place and cooperate in implementing the Cotonou peace agreement without further delay. His own country - which had been severely affected by the Liberian conflict - could not embark on the task of economic reconstruction and rehabilitation without peace in Liberia.

61. His Government condemned the indiscriminate, callous and random planting of land mines in the regions of conflict in his country. Many military personnel and civilians had been killed or maimed for life by such mines. His delegation welcomed the recent adoption by the General Assembly, by consensus, of a resolution on assistance for mine clearing operations.

62. Mr. BABA (Uganda) said that Uganda was among the countries which had suffered economic losses as a result of the effects of Security Council sanctions imposed against the former Yugoslavia. Those sanctions had come into force at a time when a road construction project of very high socio-economic importance to Uganda was halfway to completion. The suspension of work on the project - which had been contracted to the Yugoslav firm Energoprojekt - had given rise to major financial losses. Moreover, the sections of the road already completed were deteriorating rapidly from traffic and weather conditions. Currently, there was no possibility that Uganda could enter into an agreement with another company to complete the project on terms similar to those negotiated with Yugoslavia. Countries such as Uganda, with meagre resources, should not be made to suffer when they were not the intended targets of the sanctions. An effective mechanism was called for to compensate countries experiencing the economic consequences of such international actions.

63. Mr. REVANALES (Venezuela) said that economic cooperation was a necessary prerequisite to any integration process. Accordingly, Venezuela had played an active role in political efforts to achieve a Latin American solution to the severe internal and regional conflicts that had afflicted the Central American countries during the 1970s and much of the 1980s. It had also fostered economic cooperation through participation in such multilateral bodies as the Action Committee in support of the Economic and Social Development of Central America (CADESCA). Venezuela, along with Mexico, had supplied the petroleum requirements of the region and assisted those countries in the financing of oil imports. Venezuela had applied to become an extraregional associate in the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI). As a member of the Group of Three, it was also working within the high-level group on cooperation with Central America to promote cooperation with Central America and the Caribbean. The private sector played a fundamental role in advancing the integration of both regions. Cooperation programmes designed to expand markets and increase commercial productivity and competitiveness were indispensable in order to sustain political and economic adjustment and stabilization efforts.

(Mr. Revanales, Venezuela)

64. Developing countries had undertaken a process of adjustment and liberalization of their economic systems and were extremely vulnerable to external factors; as if they were to succeed they must have a favourable international economic environment. The trend towards the formation of economic blocs among industrialized countries must not be allowed to contribute to the marginalization of developing countries. Venezuela hoped that, South-South cooperation and North-South understanding would be strengthened, resulting in lasting economic and social development. Greater South-South cooperation was indispensable in order to enhance the developing countries negotiating position vis-à-vis the industrialized countries.

65. Ms. ASHRAF (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)), concerning the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, said that although prevention, preparedness and emergency response measures were much less costly, in the long run, than relief and reconstruction, relief continued to be the primary form of disaster management; that trend must be reversed. The forthcoming World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction would provide new opportunities to strengthen the disaster mitigation capacity of the international community. Ideally, natural disaster reduction activities should yield collateral benefits for economic development and environmental protection, hence the need for integrated approaches in development policies to take into account environmental and disaster reduction goals.

66. Turning to special programmes of economic assistance, she said that UNESCO sought to fulfil its mission in two ways: by working to consolidate peace and by promoting human development. To build a culture of democracy it was necessary first to ensure freedom of expression and the progressive development and reinforcement of institutions which enhanced justice, as well as participation in decision-making. On the basis of field missions to areas where the United Nations was conducting peace-building operations, UNESCO had launched several pilot projects in various countries, the first one being in El Salvador.

67. UNESCO had participated in the multi-agency mission to El Salvador organized by UNDP to plan and implement a coordinated United Nations system-wide response to the technical needs of El Salvador's National Reconstruction Plan. In consultation with all sectors of Salvadorian society, UNESCO had designed specific projects to reflect the society's fundamental needs and aspirations in the areas of human development and democratic citizenship; they covered such aspects as national identity, learning and living in a culture of peace, information and social communication for peace, and training in methods of conflict resolution.

68. The role of UNESCO in situations of active conflict included the creation of interim educational structures to assure continuity of learning for the people, support for the independence of the mass media and meetings of opinion leaders to provide a basis for mutual understanding which might facilitate peace. With regard to the alleviation of the consequences of war in Croatia, UNESCO was involved in an emergency action programme and a plan of action to safeguard the old city of Dubrovnik. A fact-finding mission had led to the preparation of a plan of action for education of children and displaced persons

(Ms. Ashraf, UNESCO)

including financial support, educational technical support, capacity-building, creation of flagship schools and rehabilitation and reconstruction of educational centres.

69. UNESCO would contribute to the rebuilding of educational, cultural and social institutions by preparing multisectoral and sectoral reviews and drawing up detailed reconstruction programmes. One of the main activities of its educational buildings programme was the design of educational buildings able to withstand disasters. The development of school maintenance and repair programmes was considered a cost-effective strategy for hazard reduction.

The meeting rose at 1.20 p.m.